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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03400 260924Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /070 W
----------260928Z 121376 /20
P R 260759Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3489
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3400

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MASS PFOR SHUM KS
SUBJ: YI CHOL SUNG ON TROOPS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 22 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, NDP LEADER YI CHOL SUNG CONTINUED TO URGE, ALTHOUGH LESS FORCEFULLY THAN IN PAST, SLOWDOWN IN ANNOUNCED TROOP WITHDRAWAL. YI STILL HOPES FOR SLIGHT RELAXATION BY PARK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR WHICH YI HIMSELF IS PUSHING. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER REVIEWING COMMON ARGUMENTS FOR TROOP PRESENCE WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR DETERRENT VALUE VIS A VIS DPRK AND STRATEGIC VALUE VIS A VIS SOUTH, AND CITING CONCERN THAT TROOP REMOVAL WOULD MAKE MATTERS TOUGHER FOR OPPOSITION, YI REPEATED OPPOSITION TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL VOICED IN HIS RECENT U.S. SPEECHES. AT SAME TIME YI SEEMED A BIT MORE RELAXED ABOUT TROOP ISSUE THAN ON EARLIER OCCASIONS AND EVEN SEEMED AT ONE POINT TO AGREE THAT COMBINATION OF MAJOR ROK EFFORT, CONTINUING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER OFFSETTING MEASURES MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE WITHDRAWAL IN FIVE YEARS.

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2. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, YI TROTTED OUT HIS CONSISTENT LINE, TO WIT: STRONG CENTRAL AUTHORITY NECESSARY IN ROK FOR TIME BEING, AND IT IS NO USE TRYING TO OVERTHROW OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE PARK; HOWEVER, BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IS CALLED FOR. YI SAID THAT SINCE HIS RETURN FROM U.S. HE HIMSELF HAD TRIED TO BRING HOME TO ROKG LEADERS HOW POOR KOREAN IMAGE IN US CURRENTLY IS AND NECESSITY FOR SOME

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RELAXATION ON ROK DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT. HE CLAIMS HE HAS SPECIFICALLY BEEN RECOMMENDING RELEASE OF KIM DAE CHUNG AND BELEIVES THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF KOREAN PEOPLE, NOT JUST OPPOSITION, FAVOR SUCH A STEP. HE HESITATED TO VENTURE OPINION ABOUT PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS WHO FAVORED RELAXATION, BUT SAID SOME CLEARLY DID AND OFFERED INTERESTING TIDBIT THAT KCIA DIRECTOR, KIM JAE KYU WAS AMONG THEM.

3. ONLY OTHER COMMENT OF NOTE WAS THAT GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO HOLD TWO OR THREE WEEK SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING MAY. WE THINK THERE MAY STILL BE SOME QUESTION ABOUT DATES HOWEVER.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, HUMAN RIGHTS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2690514
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YI CHOL SUNG ON TROOPS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 22 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, NDP LEADER YI CHOL SUNG CONTINUED TO URGE, A LTHOUG
TAGS: MILI, MASS, PFOR, SHUM, KS, (YI CHOL SUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34871c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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